



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2004

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COMMUNITY PROTECTION/EVACUATION PLANNING *First Community Protection/Evacuation Plan Completed in the County*

The communities of Campo and Lake Morena have completed the first Community Protection/Evacuation Plan in the county. Campo and Lake Morena officials will present their Community Protection/Evacuation Plan to the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services on:

Tuesday, November 9th - 09:30 AM
Campo Community Center
976 Sheridan Road, Campo

Under the leadership of Chairwoman Dianne Jacob, the Board of Supervisors last year directed the Office of Emergency Services (OES), to ensure the creation of community protection and evacuation plans. OES, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, local fire agencies, American Red Cross, Animal Services and the San Diego County FireSafe Council, came together to develop a template that each community could use in the development of their community protection and evacuation plans. A series of meetings were conducted throughout the county that included a presentation of the Community Protection/Evacuation Plan Template. Communities identified local resources and put together committees that would assist in the development of their plan.

Campo and Lake Morena turned to a community group that had been in existence since September 2001. The Mountain Empire Bioterrorism and Disaster Defense Team welcomed the task of developing the plan. The first Mountain Empire Chairperson, Judith Shaplin, saw the need to begin some type of disaster planning in the backcountry in the wake of 9/11. She pulled together a team comprised of local community leaders, public safety agency representatives, American Red Cross and other disaster relief organizations to form the Defense Team. Under the present leadership of Stacy Magoffin, she appointed Larry Johnson to Chair the sub-committee to develop the plan. They conducted numerous subcommittee meetings over a six-month period to complete the plan.

"Public input into this process was essential to the completion of the plans and residents were encouraged to participate. Without input from the community, the community plan could not have been completed," said Deborah Steffen, Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

The local community will maintain the plan as changes occur in the community. For more information, contact Herman Reddick at 858-565-3490 or Stacy Magoffin at 619-468-3963.